Rs. crores

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90 (upto 1/90)
Exports	10894.59	12452.36	15741.23	20280.92	22047.20
Imports	19657.69	20200.65	22398.97	27692.87	28937.49

Source: DGCIS, Calcutta.

Import and Distribution of Photosensitive Material

1739. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Professional Photographers' Association has urged Government to end the practice of licensing for import and distribution of photosensitive material;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present only Hindustan Photofilm Manufacturing Company (HPF) enjoys total monopoly over the import and distribution of photosensitive materials resulting in high prices and poor quality of material;

(c) whether the HPF has increased the prices of black and white paper and films of various kinds from 1st April, 1990 despite there being no increase in the cif value or the import duty;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether Government propose to delicense the import and distribution of photosensitive materials; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and what further action Government propose to take against HPF which has increased the prices of such materials from 1st April, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides HPF, M/s. New India Industries, Bombay are also licensed to manufacture photographic goods. Apart from these two units established for basic manufacture of photo sensitive goods, ten units in the private sector have also been granted licences/COB licences for slitting and confectioning of photosensitised goods from imported jumbo rolls. LOIs have also been issued to M/s. PICUP, and M/s. Garware for manufacture of various photosensitised goods.

(c) and (d) M/s. Hindustan Photo Films has increased the prices of its Black & White products w.e.f. 31.3.1990 due to increase in cost of major raw materials, packing materials, overheads, etc.

In view of indigenous availability special types of X-ray film viz. (1) Lo-Dose Mammographic films; (2) Massminiature film; (3) Special type of X-ray films used for changers; and (4) X-ray films for cat-scanners have been shifted from the Open General Licence to the Limited Permissible List in the Import and Export Policy for 1990-93 on the basis of recommendation by a Committee of Eminent Radiologists constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General of Health Services, Other types of photosensitive materials are allowed for import under Open General Licence.

(e) Does not arise.

1740 [*Transferred to the 28th May, 1990*]

Artificial Recharging of Ground Water in Gujarat

1741. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pilot project on artificial recharge' has been undertaken in